

2019 ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

HOWELL MOUNTAIN ZINFANDEL



WINEMAKER: Jason Price
REGION: Napa Valley, California
VARIETALS: Zinfandel (98%), Malbec (2%)
MATURATION: 18 months in 100% neutral French oak barrels
ANALYSIS: 14.8% alc/vol | TA: 6.0 g/L | pH: 3.77

VINTAGE: The 2019 Napa Valley vintage kicked off with substantial rain in the winter and spring. Budbreak and bloom arrived on time, but frost and wind at this time reduced yields. A long and even growing season progressed without heat spikes through harvest, which maximized color development. Several passes to drop fruit in the vineyard resulted in explosive flavors in the berries. 2019 was a tremendous vintage on Howell Mountain, and this Zinfandel grown along the northern summit ridge is heady and perfumed with the classic exotic spice that makes Black Sears Vineyard unique.

TERROIR: Black Sears has “King of the Mountain” bragging rights on Howell Mountain - topping out at 2,400 feet, making it officially the highest vineyard on the mountain. The vineyard is located just past the gate of our Howell Mountain estate. And we now surround it - literally - having purchased the vineyard just on the other side of it as well. For 25 years, winemakers have clamored for the Zinfandel grown here: both biodynamic and organic, the site is dry farmed and the vines pruned in the old world style with no trellising. Zinfandel thrives in the mountain’s well-drained, rocky volcanic soils and moderate climate.

TASTING NOTES: Forward and explosive on the nose, with aromas of bramble berry fruits, ground white pepper and exotic spicebox. The deep blackberry, white pepper and a refreshing minerality at the forefront give way to a breadth and length of the wine on the palate that sets this zinfandel apart; and still, there is so much more that keeps emanating from the wine once it hits the palate.

ABOUT ROBERT CRAIG WINERY: With a passion for Napa Valley Mountain Cabernet, Bob Craig founded his eponymous winery on Howell Mountain with three friends from business school. In 2004, CEO Elton Slone joined the winery and became a full partner in 2007. Following Bob’s retirement, Slone has continued to move the business forward with the other three founding partners. Known for producing small-lot, site-expressive wines from high elevation vineyards, Robert Craig Winery consistently garners high scores and positive accolades from the wine press.

